

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Sowerby Parish Council  
held in Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall,  
on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2013.**

**Present:** Cllr. W. Austin, Cllr. P. Bardon, Cllr. P. Beadle, Cllr. D. Bentley, Cllr P. Chapman, Cllr. G. France, Cllr. M. Robson and Cllr. A. Turner.

**In Attendance.** County Councillor Bob Baker.

**Members of the Public.** There was one member of the public in attendance. Prior to the start of the meeting Cllr Robson paid tribute to and led a minute's silence in memory of the late Billy Bell who had been a Sowerby Parish Councillor from 1973 – 2002. He had been responsible for the acquisition of the Village Greens.

**1. Apologies** were accepted from Cllr. Hoyland and Cllr. E. Storm. Cllr. Wood had sent a letter of resignation.

**2. To approve and sign the minutes of the previous meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> August 2013.** The minutes were approved and signed.

**3. North Yorkshire Police.**

There was no report from the Police.

**4. To receive the report from County Councillor B. Baker on items of relevance to Sowerby and Thirsk.**

County Councillor Baker reported that work in connection with the reduction of night time street lighting would commence in Brompton and Northallerton week commencing 16<sup>th</sup> September 2013.

He advised that the Parish Council resend the list of outstanding jobs and that NYCC were trying to catch up on a backlog of work.

**5. To receive reports from District Councillors.**

District Councillor Robson reported on the recent notice of closure of the Northallerton Prison, soon after the notice of closure of the RPA. He advised the Council that HDC had allocated £100,000.00 for a strategy to look at Hambleton Market Towns.

**6. To Discuss Matters Arising.**

**6.1 Litter outside Public Houses in Thirsk Market Place.** It was noted that the County footpaths outside the Public Houses were cleaned by HDC and that Publicans have no statutory rights to enforce smoking in designated areas at the rear of their premises.

**6.2 Parking Problems in Victoria Avenue.** This matter remained unresolved.

**6.3 Thirsk School.** It was noted that work had been carried out on the hedges but not to the trees. A further letter would be sent to Mr Mason and to the Chairman of Governors regarding perimeter works and school signs; issues which had been ongoing for some time.

**6.4 Blakey Lane Hedge.** The lowering of the high hedge was a great improvement.

**6.5 Play Area.** Soil would be placed in various depressions once the usage of the facility reduced.

**6.6 Taylor Wimpey Site.** Further work was needed at this site and more soil was needed. Grass was being allowed to grow instead of bushes.

6.7 Election of a Co-opted Member for Thirsk and Sowerby Area NYCC Hambleton Area Committee.

Cllr. Edward Fraser of Thirsk Parish had been duly elected.

**7 Planning Applications.**

**7a Decisions.**

See updated pro-forma.

**7b New Applications.**

See updated pro forma.

**8. Financial Matters.**

8a Receipts. Approved as tabled.

8b Payments for approval. Approved as tabled, with the addition of £100 to Thirsk Chamber of Trade Ladies Group for Christmas Lights in the Market Place and £50 to Sowerby WI for plants at the village signs.

8c Play Area CCTV. A quotation of £3,680 to provide a more up to date system had been received from S. Dresser. There would also be a monthly Broad Band fee and an annual inspection fee of £150. These prices were very competitive in relation to quotes from the present provider and were accepted.

**9. Part Night Lighting Initiative by HDC and NYCC.**

It was agreed that information and a map about the proposal to turn off some street lights between midnight and 5am, would be put in the Parish Council window, for the benefit of Parishioners. Cllr. Turner expressed that the proposed scheme was a mistake and that NYCC and HDC were throwing good money after bad.

**10. Removal of Certain Subsidised Bus Services by NYCC.**

Councillors were very surprised that the well-used local service between Thirsk Market Place, Norby, Hambleton Estate and Sowerby was proposed to be removed and replaced by a Dial A Ride Service on three days a week. Information would be placed in the Parish Council window. Comments from members of the public were requested on line before 25<sup>th</sup> November. The Parish Council would respond with their concerns. Concern was also raised about possible changes to Secondary School Transport.

**11. Update of Proposed 'Community Garden/Allotments as part of Sowerby Gateway.**

Cllr. Austin had attended a meeting about the future development of the land to the rear of the Skate Park. The project, including the above recreational land and sports facilities would be funded by the Developer (£1.5 million Section 106) and managed by Glenrate Project Management. The next meeting would be on October 14<sup>th</sup>.

**12. To Receive Correspondence.**

David Woods. Letter of resignation.

RAF. Increased Aircraft activity at RAF Leeming throughout September.

Sir Robert McAlpine/Autolink. Resurfacing works on A168 between Sowerby and Topcliffe. 21.09.13 – 13.10.13. Contraflow in operation.

Rev. N. Carnall. Proposed new Churchyard extension\*\*

HDC. Registration of 62A Topcliffe Road.

NYCC. Hambleton Area Committee meeting, 16<sup>th</sup> September, 2pm.

NYCC. Notice of proposed reduction to bus subsidies.

HDC. Review of Council Tax reduction scheme, (formerly Council Tax Benefit Scheme). [hambleton.gov.uk/surveys/lcts](http://hambleton.gov.uk/surveys/lcts) or phone 01609 779977.  
NHS. Views sought on plans for children's and maternity services at Friarage Hospital. [www.hambletonrichmondshireandwhitbyccg.nhs.uk](http://www.hambletonrichmondshireandwhitbyccg.nhs.uk)  
Works on roundabouts connected with Sowerby Gateway on Topcliffe Road. Expected to be in place for approx. 20 weeks.  
Thirsk Tourist Information. Copy of Blue Plaque Trail. Second edition.  
Request for those involved in Thirsk Past and Present to contact Peter Rush.  
Thirsk Information Office. Prize Draw. Amazing prizes.  
Royal British Legion. Timetable for Remembrance Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> November. Also notice of road closures for parade.  
Thirsk8 Park. Notice of AGM. 11<sup>th</sup> September 6.30pm – 8pm. Meet at Skate Park.  
Clerks and Councils Direct.  
NYWAG. Update on appeal against proposed incinerator appeal.  
Rural Action Yorkshire. Annual Report and Accounts.  
YLCA e bulletin.

**\*\*St Oswald's Churchyard extension.** In response to a letter from Rev. Carnall, a recorded vote was taken to reaffirm the earlier decision taken in July 2013, that all the land to be donated for an extension to the Churchyard should be consecrated. Six Councillors voted in favour, (Cllrs. Austin, Bardon, Beadle, Bentley, France and Robson) and one against, (Cllr. Turner). Cllr Chapman declared an interest as a member of the Parochial Church Council and did not vote.

### **13. To Receive Reports from Sub-Committees and Groups.**

Skate Park. Cllr. France reported that five people had attended the recent AGM. The Skatejam had been cancelled. It was agreed that a copy of the report would be sent to Thirsk Town Council.

Thirsk and Sowerby Town Hall. Quotations had been obtained for replacement windows and grant funding was being researched. An amount of £200 from both Thirsk Town Council and Sowerby Parish Council would be requested to make good an area of concrete.

League of Friends for the Lambert Hospital. Two parasols and two TVs had been purchased.

### **14. Any Other Business.**

- Concern was expressed that young people had been witnessed riding their bikes down the slide in the Play Area and straight out on to the Flatts Walk.
- Boarded up property on Silver Street. The owner would be contacted to see what progress is being made with the proposed renovations.
- The Carol Singing in Sowerby would take place on December 17<sup>th</sup>. The event would be included in the October agenda.
- Sue Walters Thompson would be contacted for a written report about homelessness for a future meeting.
- Concern was raised about parents unloading children in to the road from cars parked near the schools. The schools, press and traffic enforcement would be contacted.

The next ordinary meeting will be held on October 10<sup>th</sup> 2013.

---

Chairman

---

Date